



Honolulu Chapter 56

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

April 10, 2009

Councilman Todd Apo
Council Chair
Honolulu City Council
530 South King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Councilman Apo:

On behalf of Ikebana International Honolulu Chapter 56, I am writing to urge you to restore proposed budget cuts to the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts. Our organization recently worked with MOCA to organize "*Splendors of Ikebana*," a highly successful floral exhibit at Honolulu Hale, which showcased the ancient Japanese art of Ikebana or flower arranging. According to the evaluations and comments we received from the over 1,000 people who attended, the exhibit was a resounding success and helped to raise community awareness and appreciation of this ancient Japanese art form.

Through the assistance of MOCA our chapter has been able to offer Splendors of Ikebana for the last four years for the public to enjoy. We are pleased to have established this partnership with the City that has helped to promote an appreciation of culture and the arts in our community. In a time when the economy is suffering and people are facing many challenges, it is important to support the arts, which can uplift our spirits even during difficult times.

We understand that in the last few years MOCA has awarded more than \$1.5 million for various arts programs in our community. These funds, in turn, have created employment opportunities and cultural programs that have enriched the life of our city. *We ask that you continue to support culture and the arts in our community by maintaining funding levels for MOCA and restoring any proposed budget cuts.* Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Bette T. Uyeda
President

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